

Meeting Date: July 24, 2008

Agenda Item No.

Agenda Item: Wolf Update

Approved by: ____

Prepared by: Steve Nadeau

Background:

Wolves were delisted on March 28, 2008. The state of Idaho has been managing wolves as a big game animal under policies and procedures outlined in the 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, and the recently adopted 2008 Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as under the new livestock conflict law IC 36-1107. Hunting rules under the Population Plan were developed and presented to the public for comment and to the FG Commission for adoption. The Commission voted to accept the rules, and to adjust the mortality limit to try to achieve the 2005 population goal. The federal court hearing on May 29 to delay the state from managing wolves as a big game animal has not yet been decided. Proceeding with preparations for hunting in September is ongoing.

Statutory Authority/or Policy issues:

The wolf hunting rules, season length, non biological rules and quotas have all been adjusted and prepared for the wolf hunting rules brochure.

Public Involvement Process:

The public had several opportunities to comment on the rules.

Staff Recommendations:

None

Justification:

The Wolf Population Management Plan calls for maintaining viable wolf populations at or near current levels of 500-700 wolves. The proposed rules provide a harvest and reported mortality quota that along with estimated unreported mortality will establish an end of season population between 518 and 550 wolves. The plan also calls for reducing populations where livestock and ungulate conflicts are moderate to high. The proposed rules address these objectives while approaching wolf harvest in Idaho under a moderate and balanced framework.